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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,624	01/14/2004	Simon Lawrence John Stubbs	PA0111	5574

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AMERSHAM BIOSCIENCES  
PATENT DEPARTMENT  
800 CENTENNIAL AVENUE  
PISCATAWAY, NJ 08855

EXAMINER

ROBINSON, HOPE A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1653

DATE MAILED: 03/22/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 10/757,624	Applicant(s) STUBBS ET AL.	
	Examiner Hope A. Robinson	Art Unit 1653	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 10-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 14 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>1/14/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Application Status***

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I (claims 1-9) on December 20, 2004 is acknowledged. Claims 9-10 and 19-25 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.12(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. It is noted that applicant on page 9 of the response indicated that newly submitted claim 25 properly belongs in Group I, however, claim 25 belongs in Group II (fusion). Thus, this claim is withdrawn from consideration as directed to a non-elected invention.

### ***Specification***

2. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:

(a) The specification is objected to because trademarks are disclosed throughout the instant specification and not all of them are capitalized or accompanied by the generic terminology. The use of the trademarks such as PCR<sup>TM</sup>, TRIS<sup>®</sup>, for example, have been noted in this application (see pages 16 and 35). It should be capitalized wherever it appears and be accompanied by the generic terminology. Although the use of trademarks is permissible in patent applications, the proprietary nature of the marks should be respected and every effort made to prevent their use in any manner, which might adversely affect their validity as trademarks. It is suggested that the specification

Art Unit: 1653

is amended to delete "Tris.HCl" for example, and insert " TRIS® HCL (hydroxymethyl) aminomethane hydrochloride" (see page 35 for example).

(b) The specification is objected to because the priority document needs to be updated. It is noted that applicant filed a preliminary amendment on January 14, 2004 to introduce the priority documents on page 1 of the instant specification, however, the information provided does not indicated that application 09/967,301 is now patented.

Correction of the above is required.

#### ***Drawing***

4. The drawings filed on January 14, 2004 have been accepted by the examiner.

#### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

5. The Information Disclosure Statement filed on January 14, 2004 has been received and entered. The references cited on the PTO-1449 Form have been considered by the examiner and a copy is attached to the instant Office action.

#### ***Claim Objection***

6. Claims 8 and 9 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claims 8 and 9 are objected to for the recitation of "The fluorescent protein", instead of "A fluorescent protein", see for example claim 1.

Correction of the above is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101***

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

7. Claims 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 8-9 are drawn to a fluorescent protein, which reads on a product of nature. The claims should be amended to indicate the hand of the inventor, for example the insertion of isolated or purified in connection with the protein to identify a product not found in nature (see MPEP 2105). See also claim 1 which recites "an amino acid sequence which is modified".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

8. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to

Art Unit: 1653

reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

The claimed invention is directed to a fluorescent protein derived from GFP or any functional analogue (see claim 1). The dependent claims hereto do not rectify the deficiency as the claims do not define said functional analogue. The specification lacks adequate written description to demonstrate to a skilled artisan that applicant was in possession of the claimed invention as no description is provided in terms of size or structure of the claimed analogue. The claims read on an unspecified amount of analogues, which have not been adequately described. Therefore, the skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the claimed protein analogues.

The claims indicate that the modified GFP has a different excitation spectrum or a different emission spectrum compared to the wild type GFP, however, there is no demonstration of all possible GFP analogues having this activity. The specification lacks adequate written description for the claimed analogues thereof, with regard to size, structure and function (i.e. is function retained or is the analogue non-functional or possess a different function). The specification fails to provide any additional representative species of the claimed genus to show that applicant was in possession of the claimed genus. A representative number of species means that the species, which are adequately described, are representative of the entire genus. The written description requirement for a claimed genus may be satisfied through sufficient description of a representative number of species by actual reduction to practice, disclosure of drawings, or by disclosure of relevant identifying characteristics, for

Art Unit: 1653

example, structure or other physical and/or chemical properties, by functional characteristics coupled with a known or disclosed correlation between function and structure, or by a combination of such identifying characteristics, sufficient to show the applicant was in possession of the claimed genus.

Accordingly, in the absence of sufficient recitation of distinguishing identifying characteristics, the specification does not provide adequate written description of the claimed genus. The claimed genus of protein analogues could include non-functional proteins or proteins with a different function than the one described. Therefore, the genus of claimed analogues encompasses widely variant species. As such, neither the description of the structure and function of SEQ ID NOs: 2, 3 and 4, for example, is sufficient to be representative of the attributes and features of the entire genus.

*Vas-Cath Inc. v. Mahurkar*, 935 F.2d 1555, 1563-64, 19 USPQ2d 1111, 1117 (Fed. Cir.1991), states that "applicant must convey with reasonable clarity to those skilled in the art that, as of the filing date sought, he or she was in *possession of the invention*. The invention is, for purposes of the 'written description' inquiry, *whatever is now claimed*" (See page 1117). The specification does not "clearly allow persons of ordinary skill in the art to recognize that [he or she] invented what is claimed" (See *Vas-Cath* at page 1116). The skilled artisan cannot envision the detailed chemical structure of the encompassed genus of polypeptides, and therefore, conception is not achieved until reduction to practice has occurred, regardless of the complexity or simplicity of the method of isolation. Adequate written description requires more than a mere statement that it is part of the invention and reference to a potential method of isolating it. The

Art Unit: 1653

compound itself is required. *See Fiers v. Revel, 25 USPQ2d 1601 at 1606 (CAFC 1993).*

Therefore, for all these reasons the specification lacks adequate written description, and one of skill in the art cannot reasonably conclude that the applicant had possession of the claimed invention at the time the instant application was filed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims 1, 3, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,780,975, August 16, 1996).

Tsein et al. teach modified GFPs having substitution at position F64, S65, E222 and S175 having different spectral properties than the wildtype GFP (claim 1, see SEQ ID NO:4 of the patent attached herein). The sequence disclosed by Tsein et al. has the Gly at position 175 (claim 3) and Leu at position 222 (claim 5), see SEQ ID NO:4. The modifications disclosed in the Tsein et al. patent are compared to the GFP wildtype



Art Unit: 1653

protein, thus claim 7 is also anticipated (see SEQ ID NO:4 of the patent). Therefore, the limitations of the claims are met by the reference.

### ***Conclusion***

10. No claims are presently allowable.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hope A. Robinson whose telephone number is 571-272-0957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jon P. Weber, can be reached at (571) 272-0925. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/757,624

Page 9

Art Unit: 1653

Hope Robinson, MS *HR*

Patent Examiner *3/11/05*